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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives

Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 24, 2012

H.B. 1676 – RELATING TO
PUBLIC WORKS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1676, which establishes a preference for the use of American iron, steel, and manufactured goods in the construction, alteration, or repair of public works.

This year marks the third straight year that the U.S. unemployment rate remains over eight percent. In these difficult economic times, this measure will help create jobs for our nation's people. Putting Americans back to work is a constructive way to stimulate and rebuild our economy. It will ensure that tax dollars are invested in communities all over our nation. Our workers and community deserve it. We urge you to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1676.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama E. Desha
Deputy Executive Director

IRONWORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

January 23, 2012

Angus McKelvey, Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
House of Representative
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business:

Re: Support for HB 1676 – Relating to Public Works

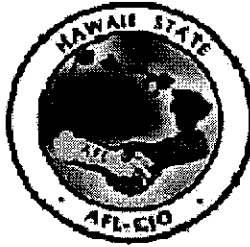
We are in support of HB 1676, relating to Public Works; that provides a preference for the use of American Iron, steel and manufactured goods in public works projects.

The purpose of this bill is to marry the Buy America Act on federal construction projects. This is similar to the Made in Hawaii preference and will allow our state and national economy to grow. During this period of uncertain economic time we believe that we should support not only our local economy, but our nation's economy as well. What better way than to support products that are made by hard working men and women of the United States.

Again we support this measure for the betterment of our national economy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold Wong /s/



The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
January 24, 2012

H.B. 1676 – RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports H.B. 1676 which establishes a preference for the use of American iron, steel, and manufactured goods in the construction, alteration, or repair of public works.

To get our nation back on track we must get our economy working again and working for the middle class. To help ensure this happens, we need to insist our tax dollars are spent at home, on American-made products. H.B. 1676 will do just that. It will help put Americans back to work by ensuring that state tax dollars are used to procure goods made in the United States whenever our trade laws permit.

Unfortunately, since 2000, 4 million U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost amounting to losses of nearly one-fourth of all U.S. manufacturing jobs. Factory orders now stand at record lows while the U.S. racked up a \$700 billion trade deficit in 2007. However, according to an Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) study by the University of Massachusetts' Political Economy Research Institute, significant investment in infrastructure could create more than 250,000 manufacturing jobs if U.S.-made goods are used. This is why it is imperative to pass H.B. 1676. We must do all we can to help keep good paying jobs in the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bradshaw
COPE Director